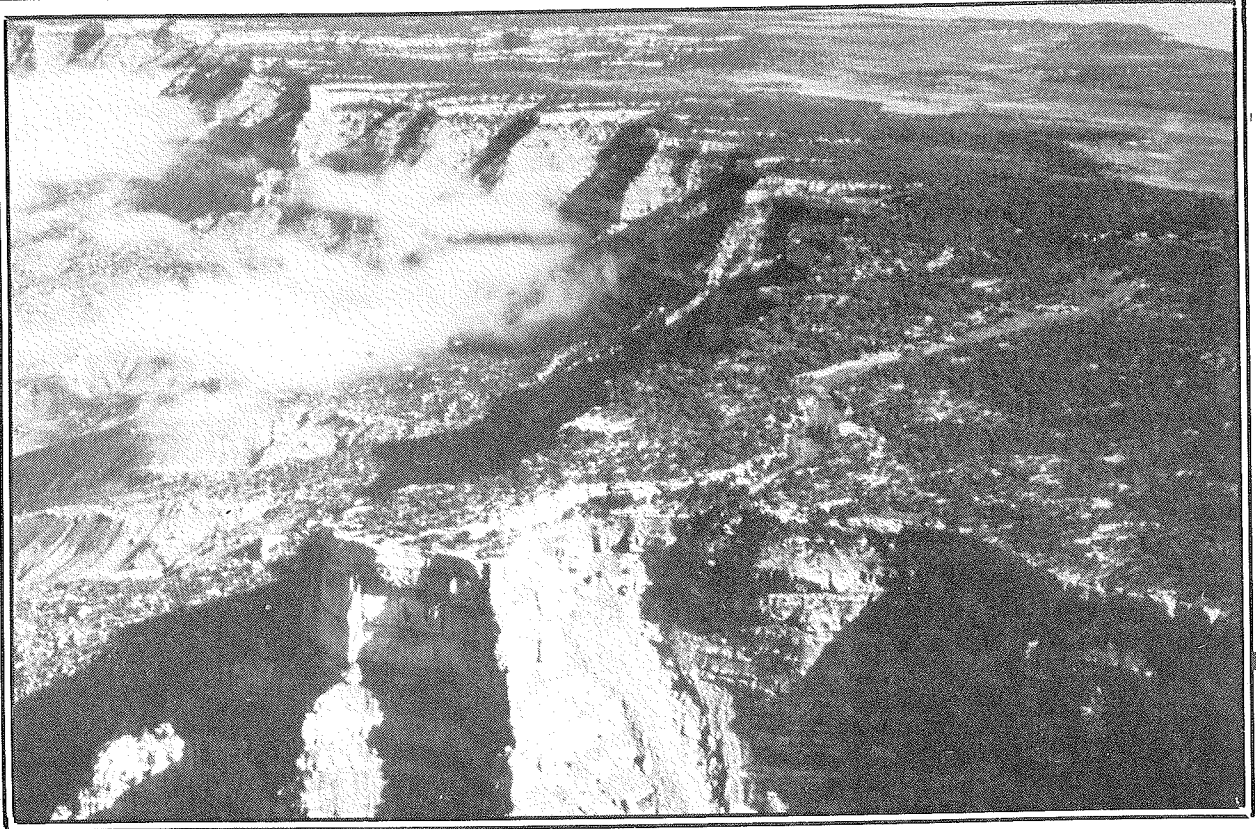
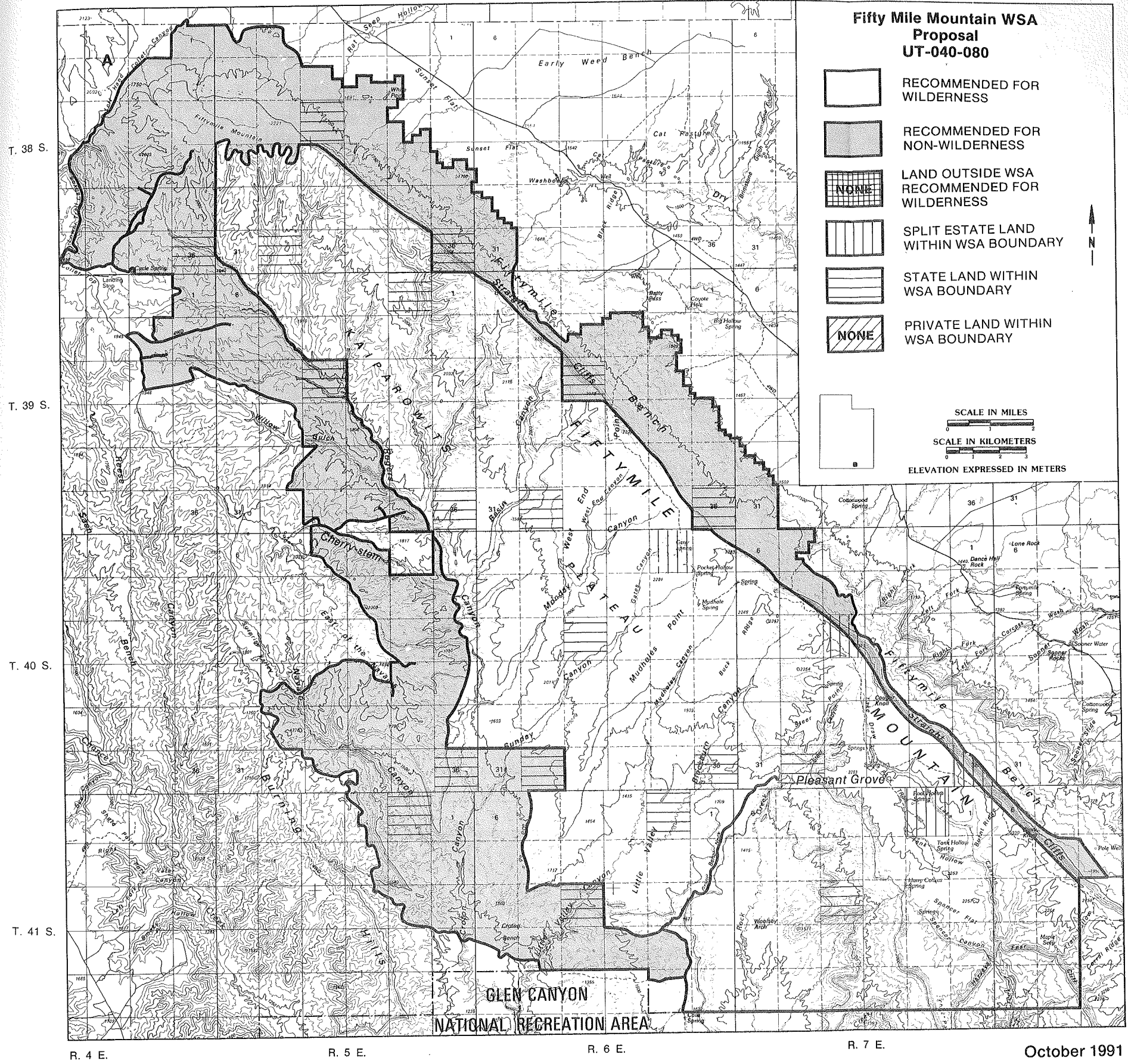


Fifty Mile Mountain WSA



FIFTY MILE MOUNTAIN WSA



FIFTYMILE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA: 146,143 acres

The Fiftymile Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (UT-040-080) is in eastern Kane County, about 20 miles southeast of Escalante, Utah (population 652). A small portion (90 acres) of the WSA is located in Garfield County. The study area is an irregularly shaped, elongated unit 24 miles long from northwest to southeast and 12 miles from east to west. Almost all of the WSA's southern

boundary is the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GCNRA).

The southwestern boundary is the Croton Road and the remainder of the western boundary is formed by coal exploration roads and State lands in the Rogers Canyon and East of the Navajo areas. The northern boundary is the Left Hand Collet Canyon road. To the east and below the Straight Cliffs, the boundary is the Fiftymile Bench road to the Left Hand Collet Road.

TABLE 1
LAND STATUS AND ACREAGE SUMMARY IN THE STUDY AREA^a

WITHIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA	ACRES
BLM (surface and subsurface)	146,143
Split-Estate (BLM surface only) ^b	2,659
In-holdings (State, Private)	12,341
Total	161,143
WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY	
BLM (within WSA)	91,361
BLM (outside WSA)	0
Split-Estate (within WSA)	2,659
Split-Estate (outside WSA)	0
Total BLM land recommended for wilderness	94,010
In-holdings (State, private)	5,849
WITHIN THE AREA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS	
BLM	54,782
Split-Estate	0
Total BLM land not recommended for wilderness	54,782
In-holdings (State, Private)	6,492

Source: BLM File Data

^a The Appendix is a detailed table of in-holdings and/or split-estate tracts included within the portion of the WSA recommended for designation.

^b In this report, split-estate lands are defined as only those lands with Federal surface and non-Federal subsurface (minerals). Lands that have Federal minerals but non-Federal surface are classified according to the owner of the surface.

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The WSA boundary is in small legal subdivisions that separate the disturbed areas below the Fiftymile Bench from those areas possessing the naturalness characteristic. The exception is in the area above Cat Pasture where the boundary extends to the base of the Straight Cliffs along the imprints created by uranium exploration activities. The WSA boundary includes two cherrystems on Grand Bench Neck and at the head of Rogers Canyon. (see Map). The WSA contains 146,143 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Nineteen State sections (12,341 acres) and 4 sections (2,659 acres) of split-estate land (Federal surface and State minerals) are in the WSA (see Table 1). Thirteen State sections (5,849 acres) and all of the 2,659 acres of split-estate land are within the area recommended for wilderness designation. No private lands are in the study area (see Table 1).

The WSA includes all of Fiftymile Mountain at the southeastern edge of the Kaiparowits Plateau. The northeastern edge of Fiftymile Mountain is a 2,000-foot escarpment called the Straight Cliffs. The WSA is characterized by both rugged and remote, dissected canyons and plateau surfaces and ranges in elevation from 4,000 feet in the southern portion of the area to 7,586 feet at the crest of the Straight Cliffs. The predominant vegetative cover is pinyon-juniper woodland. Some aspen grows on the highest portion of Fiftymile Mountain. Desert shrub and sagebrush are found in the lower elevations.

The WSA was studied under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and was included in the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) finalized in November, 1990. Four alternatives were analyzed in the EIS: a partial wilderness alternative where 91,361 acres would be designated as wilderness and the remaining 54,782 acres would be released for uses other than wilderness, which is the recommendation in this report, a no wilderness (no action) alternative, an all wilderness alternative, and a smaller partial wilderness alternative of 51,540 acres.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE:

91,361 acres
(recommended for wilderness)
54,782 acres
(recommended for nonwilderness)

The recommendation for this WSA is to designate 91,361 acres as wilderness and to release the remaining 54,782 acres for uses other than wilderness. Designation of the entire area as wilderness is considered to be the environmentally preferable alternative as it would result in the least change from the natural environment over the long term. The alternative selected, however would be implemented in a manner which would utilize all practical means to avoid or minimize environmental impacts.

All of the WSA is in a natural state. Approximately three-fourths of the portion of the WSA recommended for wilderness designation exhibits outstanding opportunities both for solitude and for primitive recreation. Areas recommended for designation that possess outstanding opportunities include the Fiftymile Mountain plateau, the rugged Rogers Canyon-Basin Canyon area, the Straight Cliffs escarpment, Little Valley, and the basin of Rock Creek. About 15 percent of the recommended area boundary is along the eastern edge of the Kaiparowits coal field as it is delineated by the Kaiparowits Known Recoverable Coal Resource Area (KRCRA). No significant conflicts exist with other resources or uses. Wilderness values are considered to have precedence over mineral extraction and nonwilderness uses in the recommended portion of the WSA. The partial wilderness alternative comprises about 63 percent of the WSA.

Certain locations in the area recommended for nonwilderness lack outstanding opportunities for solitude or for primitive recreation. Included in the area not recommended for wilderness are the benches west of Rogers Canyon, Navajo Canyon and the Croton Canyon Basin, and areas below the Straight Cliffs. Areas recommended for nonwilderness include the Kaiparowits KRCRA and other acreage under coal lease with pre-existing rights. Although coal mining is not expected in the short term, the option for future mining is significant. Uranium deposits may exist in eastern part of

FIFTYMILE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

the area recommended for nonwilderness. In the area not recommended for wilderness designation, mineral potential outweighs the wilderness values.

3. CRITERIA CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING THE PARTIAL WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION

Wilderness Characteristics

A. Naturalness

Naturalness is defined as an attribute in which the evidence of man is substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor and where minor imprints of man exhibit no cumulative impact that is substantially noticeable. Overall, the entire 146,143-acre WSA meets the criteria for naturalness although some evidence of human activity exists. The most significant aspect of naturalness in this large WSA is the presence of the Fiftymile Mountain plateau. The Fiftymile Mountain is believed to be the largest unroaded plateau in the Southwest. It is this undisturbed island-in-the-sky attribute that imparts a special significance to the naturalness in the WSA. Imprints of man in the WSA include a vehicular way 6 miles long from an abandoned airstrip on Grand Bench Neck into the Rock Creek drainage; several fences, totalling about 7 miles; a developed spring; and three cabins, two on Fiftymile Mountain and one in Rogers Canyon. These imprints combined total about 100 acres, or less than 0.1 percent of the WSA, and are substantially unnoticeable.

Since establishment of the WSA, approximately 9 acres of the WSA have been disturbed as a result of an Exxon uranium drilling project on BLM and State lands in 1980. The drilling activity was east of Rogers Canyon and included approximately 8.5 acres of road development and 0.5 acre of drill pads and mud pits. All work was completed as described in the approved Plan of Operations. These areas have been reclaimed to a substantially unnoticeable condition.

B. Solitude

Overall, approximately 69,000 acres of the WSA have outstanding opportunities for solitude and 77,143 acres do not.

The portion recommended for wilderness designation includes approximately 65,000-acres (95 percent) of the 69,000-acres in the WSA possessing outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The WSA has outstanding opportunities for solitude because of isolation due to topography, the size of the WSA, and terrain. The configuration of the WSA neither enhances nor detracts from the outstanding opportunities present.

The Fiftymile Mountain plateau is isolated from the remainder of the WSA by encircling cliffs including the Straight Cliffs; the cliffs of the Dry Rock Creek, Rock Creek, and Little Valley Creek basins; and the walls of Sunday, Monday, and Basin canyons. The top of Fiftymile Mountain is a tableland. Screening exists where canyons cut into the tableland, and on the points between canyons where numerous outcrops, ledges, and draws exist.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist in The Rogers Canyon drainage, Little Valley Creek Basin, and Rock Creek Basin. In the Rogers Canyon drainage, the terrain is deeply dissected between Rogers Canyon and the Straight Cliffs. The remnant benches provide outstanding opportunities for solitude because they are isolated by the canyons and the Straight Cliffs and screening exists on several benches because of extensive rock outcrops. Immediately north and west of the Rogers Canyon-Left Hand Collet Canyon divide several canyons that are tributaries to Left Hand Collet Canyon provide solitude. Canyons in the Little Valley Creek and Rock Creek Basins provide outstanding opportunities for solitude because they are narrow, winding, slot-like canyons.

The Straight Cliffs provide outstanding opportunities for solitude in areas where the upper cliff face has moist alcoves where aspen and shrubby vegetation provide screening.

Sights and sounds of human activities are not apparent from most places within the WSA. From the top of the Straight Cliffs, vehicular activity on the Hole-in-the-Rock Road can be observed. From the western rim between Spencer Point to

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Mudholes Point, boating activity on Lake Powell and the plume from the Navajo Powerplant are visible.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Overall, opportunities for primitive recreation are outstanding on 67,000 acres. The remaining 79,143 acres of the WSA have less than outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The WSA has outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, photography, and sightseeing. The portion recommended for wilderness designation includes approximately 63,000 acres (94 percent) of the 67,000 acres in the WSA possessing outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The Fiftymile Mountain plateau from West End Point south to Fiftymile, Navajo, and Spencer Points in Glen Canyon NRA is a frequent destination for backpackers and horseback riders. The Fiftymile Mountain is the highest large land mass in the lower Glen Canyon region, and is a landscape with a climate unique to the region. The vegetation is predominantly pinyon-juniper but it includes aspen and isolated stands of Ponderosa pine. Water sources are adequate for backpacking and horseback activities.

Opportunities for sightseeing and photography are outstanding along the Straight Cliffs rim and on the west rim, where there are unobstructed views of the Escalante River canyons, Lake Powell, and Navajo Mountain. The plateau portion of the WSA provides backpacking and sightseeing opportunities to a degree not often equalled in the lower Glen Canyon region.

Archaeological sites are numerous on the top of the Fiftymile Mountain and in the bordering cliffline. The terrain is not difficult to traverse on top and archaeological sightseeing has significant potential.

The dissected region between the Straight Cliffs and Rogers Canyon provides opportunities for challenging backpacking trips because the terrain is very difficult to traverse and water is lacking.

The bench below the Fiftymile Mountain between Steer Canyon and Navajo Point in the Glen Canyon NRA provides spectacular views and outstanding opportunities for sightseeing and photography.

D. Special Features

The WSA is best known as a location for viewing the panoramas of the lower Glen Canyon region. Features that can be viewed from the Fiftymile Mountain WSA include Lake Powell, Navajo Mountain-Rainbow Plateau, Glen Canyon, and the canyonlands of the Escalante River.

Fiftymile Mountain is unique in the sense that the plateau is the only island of green in the midst of red and yellow canyonlands and Lake Powell. Aspen in Pleasant Grove, Steer Canyon, and Pinto Mare Canyons contribute to the aesthetic landscape. The "Garden" on the west rim is a scenic area. Window Wind Arch above the Middle Trail is scenic because it is at the very edge of the Straight Cliffs. The Straight Cliffs escarpment is a major landmark in south-central Utah and is an important scenic feature viewed from the Hole-in-the-Rock road. Similarly, the west rim cliff from Spencer Point to Mudhole Point is a scenic feature as viewed from Lake Powell.

Peregrine falcons and bald eagles, which are listed as endangered species, occasionally use the WSA. The WSA has a population of cougar. Nine other animal species and seven plant species that are considered sensitive occur, or may occur, in the WSA. Refer to Appendix 4 and the Affected Environment, Wildlife Including Special Status Species section of the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness EIS for additional information.

The WSA contains a 47,325-acre archaeological district that has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The district has both historical and scientific importance. Archaeology on Fiftymile Mountain was a major subject of investigation during the conduct of the Glen Canyon Archaeological Salvage Project. The WSA is part of an area

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from which past occupational patterns and chronologies in the greater Glen Canyon region can be determined. Because of its scientific value, the archaeology of the WSA also has educational value. In the past, the scientific investigation of this resource has involved student participation from Utah institutions of higher education. Future investigations would undoubtedly involve student participation from universities in the region.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS)

A. Expanding the Diversity of Natural Systems and Features as Represented by Ecosystems

Wilderness designation of this WSA would not add a combination of potential natural vegetation (PNV) ecosystems not presently represented in the NWPS, but it would augment the diversity of the NWPS by adding an ecosystem (salt-bush-greasewood) which is now represented in only one wilderness area, also in Utah.

PNV is the vegetative type that would eventually become climax vegetation if not altered by human interference, and is not necessarily the vegetation that is currently present in an area.

The WSA is in the Colorado Plateau Province/Ecoregion. The PNV in the WSA is juniper-pinyon woodland (102,243 acres) and saltbush-greasewood (43,800 acres).

This particular combination of potential natural vegetation ecosystems is not represented in the NWPS either nationally or in Utah.

This information is summarized in Table 2, from data compiled in December 1989.

B. Assessing the Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive Recreation within a Days Driving Time (5 Hours) of Major Population Centers

The WSA is not within a 5-hour drive of any major population centers.

C. Balancing the Geographic Distribution of Wilderness Areas

The Fiftymile Mountain WSA would not contribute significantly to balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas within the NWPS. As of January, 1987, the NWPS included 64 areas comprising 2,834,115 acres in Utah and Arizona.

There are eight designated wilderness areas within 100 miles of the WSA.

TABLE 2
ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION

	NWPS AREAS		OTHER BLM STUDIES	
	AREAS	ACRES	AREAS	ACRES
BAILEY-KUCHLER CLASSIFICATION (PNV)				
NATIONWIDE (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)				
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	11	1,401,745	84	2,041,662
Saltbush-Greasewood	1	20,000	17	350,203
UTAH (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)				
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	1	26,000	53	1,603,855
Saltbush-Greasewood	1	20,000	17	350,203

Source: BLM File Data.

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In a clockwise direction beginning to the north are the 26,000-acre Box-Death Hollow Wilderness (Forest Service [FS]), the 45,000-acre Dark Canyon Wilderness (FS), the 112,000-acre Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness (BLM), the 6,860-acre Cottonwood Point Wilderness (BLM), the 70,500-acre Kanab Creek Wilderness (FS and BLM units), the 40,600-acre Saddle Mountain Wilderness (FS), and the 7,000-acre Ashdown Gorge Wilderness (FS).

Manageability (The area must be capable of being managed effectively to preserve its wilderness character.)

The WSA, including the portion recommended for wilderness, can be managed as wilderness to preserve the values present in the area.

Even though there are 40 acres in a post-FLPMA oil and gas lease in the recommended part of the WSA, it is subject to nonimpairment of wilderness values and it is expected that this lease would expire and would not be renewed if the area is designated as wilderness. There are 160 acres of mining claims in the portion of the WSA recommended for wilderness. It is expected that a portion of these and future claims existing at the time of designation would be explored for uranium in the foreseeable future. However, the amount of disturbance would be small and would not affect overall manageability of the wilderness.

Provision of access to nine in-held sections of State land and four sections of split-estate land with State minerals in the recommended portion of the WSA could complicate wilderness management in the long-term future. However, none of the State lands in the recommended area are leased for coal and development is not projected. Therefore, new access roads to the State land likely would not be required through the area following wilderness designation.

Livestock grazing and maintenance of existing facilities would continue, but would not significantly affect the wilderness values of the WSA.

Management of wilderness in the area not recommended would be more difficult than

management of the recommended area. This area not recommended has known coal resources and includes 7,505 acres of existing coal leases. It is expected that if the WSA is designated as wilderness, existing coal leases would expire and would not be renewed. However, there are ten sections of State land inheld in the nonrecommended area and over the long-term future there likely would be a need for access roads through the wilderness. Additionally, development of coal on State lands would reduce the quality of wilderness values in the nonrecommended area.

Energy and Mineral Resource Values

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM) prepared a mineral assessment report for the Fiftymile Mountain WSA (USGS Bulletin 1747-A, Susan Bartsch-Winkler, et al, 1988). The report indicates that no economic or marginally economic resources were identified in the study area. Subeconomic resources of sandstone, sand, and gravel are inferred, however. All or part of four lode and one placer claim blocks have been staked within the study area, located either for uranium or titanium.

The mineral resource potential for coal and undiscovered titanium resources is high, except in the southwesternmost part of the study area, where there is no potential for either commodity. The mineral resource potential for uranium is high in the north-central part and the southeastern tip of the area and moderate elsewhere. The potential for other undiscovered metals is low. The potential for undiscovered geothermal, oil, gas, gypsum, and carbon dioxide resources is moderate.

Impacts on Resources

The comparative impact table (Table 3) summarizes the effects on pertinent resources for alternatives considered including designation or nondesignation of the area as wilderness.

Local Social and Economic Considerations

With BLM's recommendation, the portion of the WSA with the highest potential for long-term mineral development would

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not be designated as wilderness. The recommended action would not result in a loss of local employment or income.

Federal and State revenues would not be reduced. Economic opportunities could be realized through mineral and energy resource exploration and eventual development in the long term. With coal development in the long term, there would be major beneficial and adverse economic effects in Garfield and Kane counties.

Summary of WSA-Specific Public Comments

Public involvement has occurred throughout the wilderness review process. Comments received during the early stages of the EIS preparation were used to develop significant study issues and alternatives for the ultimate management of the WSA.

During formal public review of the Draft EIS, a total of 102 inputs specifically addressing this WSA were received from 397 commenters, including oral statements received at 17 public hearings on the EIS. Each letter or oral testimony was considered to be one input. Duplicate letters or oral statement by the same commenter were not counted as additional inputs or signatures. Each individual counted as one commenter regardless of the number of inputs.

In general, 108 commenters supported wilderness designation for part or all of the WSA, while 282 of the commenters were opposed to wilderness designation. Seven commenters addressed the relative merits of the EIS, but took no formal position on wilderness designation.

Those favoring wilderness commented on the special features in the WSA, lack of conflict with mineral-related activities, and that the WSA contains wilderness values. Those commenting in favor of wilderness were about equally from urban Utah and from other states. Of particular concern was the need to protect cultural values.

Those opposing wilderness were concerned that wilderness would conflict with or preclude mineral exploration and development, livestock operations, flood control and water rights, public access, or other uses; is not compatible with

multiple use; would harm State/local economy; and that designation is not necessary to protect the WSA. The great majority of those opposed were from rural Utah.

Two Federal agencies, the NPS and the USBM commented on the Draft EIS. The NPS stated that the all wilderness alternative would be preferred over the 51,540-acre partial wilderness alternative. The USBM did not take a position regarding designation or nondesignation but commented that BLM had understated the petroleum potential of the Fiftymile Mountain WSA.

No comment letters were received on the Final EIS.

There are 19 sections (12,341-acres) of State land and 2,659-acres of split-estate with State minerals in the WSA. In commenting on the Draft EIS, the State of Utah expressed general opposition to wilderness designation but did not take a definite position regarding wilderness designation of the WSA. The State considers the Fiftymile Mountain to have both high wilderness values and conflicts. The State suggested that within the entire area of the WSA, potential conflicts with coal, uranium, and oil and gas development could occur.

The Kane and Garfield County Commissions are opposed to wilderness designation of the Fiftymile Mountain WSA and have endorsed the Consolidated Local Government Response to Wilderness that opposes wilderness designation of BLM land in Utah.

The Kane County Master Plan rejects wilderness as an exclusionary form of recreation that cannot be used by the average visitor. Garfield County previously proposed to the Utah Congressional Delegation that 111,053 acres of BLM lands in three WSAs and 31,600 acres in one FS unit in the county be recommended as wilderness. The Garfield County Master Plan recommends that the remaining lands in the county, including the Fiftymile Mountain WSA, be retained for multiple use.

In commenting on the Draft EIS, the counties stated that the known coal and uranium deposits in the WSA are essen-

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tial to the long-term development of the region and that the areas of outstanding scenic values can be protected under current regulations as evidenced by the Fiftymile Mountain Archaeological District, already in existence.

FIFTY MILE MOUNTAIN WSA

Table 3
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Alternatives				
Issue Topic	Recommendation	No Action/No Wilderness	All Wilderness	Small Partial Wilderness
	Large Partial Wilderness (91,361 Acres)		(146,143 Acres)	(51,540 Acres)
Impacts on Wilderness Values	<p>Wilderness values would be preserved overall in the designated area which is approximately 63 percent of the WSA. In the short term, disturbance from uranium, exploration, vegetation treatments, rangeland projects, and from providing access to State in-holdings would result in a loss of wilderness values mostly in the nondesignated area. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on 1,537 acres and would be reduced in quality on up to an additional 14,600 acres. Some Class A scenery would be reduced in quality in directly and indirectly impacted areas. Most (99 percent) of the impact would be in the nondesignated area. Vehicular use of 6 miles of existing ways and future roads in the nondesignated portion would detract from opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the WSA. Long-term loss of wilderness values from coal development would be the same as described for the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative.</p>	<p>Wilderness values would not be protected by wilderness designation and loss would occur as intrusions increase. In the short term, disturbance from uranium exploration, vegetation treatments, rangeland projects, and from providing access to State in-holdings would result in the loss of wilderness values. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on approximately 3,046 acres and indirectly reduced in quality on up to an additional 30,000 acres. Class A scenery would be reduced in quality in directly and indirectly impacted areas. Vehicular use of 6 miles of existing ways and future exploration and access roads would detract from opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the WSA. Coal development over the long term would result in a direct loss of wilderness values on 60 acres and an indirect reduction in wilderness quality on about 14,600 acres.</p>	<p>Wilderness designation would preserve wilderness values overall in the WSA. In the short term, disturbance from uranium exploration, rangeland projects, and from providing access to State in-holdings would result in a loss of wilderness values. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on about 26 acres and indirectly reduced in quality on up to about an additional 2,900 acres. Special features would be preserved overall, although some Class A scenery would be reduced in quality in direct an indirect disturbance areas.</p>	<p>Wilderness values would be preserved overall in the designated area which is approximately 35 percent of the WSA. Loss or reduction in quality of wilderness values from uranium exploration, vegetation treatments, rangeland projects, from providing access to State in-holdings and from continued vehicular activity in the short term, and from coal development in the long term would result in the same impacts to wilderness values as the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative. About 99 percent of the impact would be in the non-designated area</p>

FIFTY MILE MOUNTAIN WSA

Table 3 (Continued)
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Issue Topic	Alternatives			
	Recommendation Large Partial Wilderness (91,361 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness	All Wilderness (146,143 Acres)	Small Partial Wilderness (51,540 Acres)
Impacts on Vegetation	Special status plant species would not be significantly affected. About 1.8 percent (1,537 acres) of the pinyon-juniper woodland type would be converted to a grass-shrub type.	Disturbance would not result in significant impacts to special status species. About 3.5 percent of the pinyon-juniper woodland type in the WSA would be converted to a grass-shrub type; therefore, there would not be significant changes in vegetation types in the WSA.	Implementation of the All Wilderness Alternative would not significantly affect the vegetation resource in the WSA. Vegetation types and special status plant species would be protected because potential disturbance would be reduced to 26 acres.	There would be the same impacts as described for the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative because the projected activities and surface disturbance would be the same.
Impacts on Mineral and Energy Exploration and Production	The coal resource is located in the non-designated portion of the WSA and could be developed in the long term. Loss of development and exploration opportunities for other mineral and energy resources would not be significant because the probability of development is low even if a portion of the WSA is not designated wilderness.	Implementation of this alternative would not adversely affect mineral exploration or production because minerals could be claimed, leased, and developed as at present.	Wilderness designation would preclude development of about 73.5 million tons of recoverable coal development. Loss of exploration and development opportunities for other mineral and energy resources would not be significant because the probability of development is low even if the WSA is not designated wilderness.	The impacts would be the same as with the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative.
Impacts on Wildlife Habitat and Populations	Wildlife habitat and populations including special status species would not be significantly affected. Overall development of the springs and vegetation treatments would benefit wildlife by providing additional water, forage, and ecotones. Approximately 1 percent (1,537 acres) of the wildlife habitat in the WSA would be disturbed.	Wildlife habitat and populations including special status species would not be significantly affected. Implementation of the water and vegetation treatment projects would benefit wildlife by providing additional water, forage, and ecotones. Overall, about 2.1 percent (3,106 acres) of the wildlife habitat in the WSA would be disturbed.	Wilderness designation would preclude 3,000 acres of vegetation treatments designed to improve wildlife habitat but would protect all species provide additional opportunities for solitude. Approximately 0.02 percent (26 acres) of the wildlife habitat in the WSA would be disturbed.	There would be the same impacts as described for the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative.

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Table 3 (Continued)
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Issue Topic	Alternatives		
	Recommendation Large Partial Wilderness (91,361 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness (146,143 Acres)	Small Partial Wilderness (51,540 Acres)
Impacts on Livestock Management	Impacts on livestock management would be about the same as with the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative because existing access and grazing levels would not be affected and proposed projects would be allowed.	Little affect on the management of livestock is projected with this alternative because grazing levels, access, and management practices would remain as at present.	Impacts on livestock management would be about the same as with the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative because existing access and grazing levels would not be affected and proposed projects would be allowed.
Impacts on Cultural Resources	Cultural resources including 392 of the 400 recorded sites would be protected by wilderness designation, although wilderness management may restrict certain cultural resource management practices. Some impact to sites in the nondesignated area (37 percent of the WSA) is expected, but all sites would continue to be protected under existing laws.	Projected short-term and long-term surface development activities may impact significant cultural resources. All sites in the unit would continue to receive protection under existing laws. The unit would continue to be open to vehicular access, but impacts to cultural resources is expected to be minimal because there is little use of ORVs in the WSA. Vandalism may increase due to the attractive nature of the resources present. Cultural resources could be managed with regard for preservation of other wilderness values.	Cultural resources including 384 of the 400 recorded sites would be protected by wilderness designation, although wilderness management may restrict certain cultural resource management practices. Some impact to sites in the nondesignated area (65 percent of the WSA) is expected but all sites would continue to be protected under existing laws.

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Table 3 (Continued)
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Alternatives			
Issue Topic	Recommendation	All Wilderness	
	Large Partial Wilderness (91,361 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness (146,143 Acres)	Small Partial Wilderness (51,540 Acres)
Impacts on Economic Conditions	Impacts would be about the same as with the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative because coal development and related impacts would occur.	No loss of local employment or income would occur. Federal and State revenues would not be reduced. Economic opportunities could be realized through mineral and energy resource exploration and eventual development of coal in the long term. There would be major beneficial and adverse impacts in Garfield and Kane Counties.	Impacts would be about the same as with the No Action/ No Wilderness Alternative because coal development and related impacts would occur.

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Appendix
Estimated Costs of Acquisition of Non-Federal Holdings Within Areas Recommended for Designation ^a

Legal Description (Prior to any Subdivision)	Total Acreage	Number of Owners (If Parcel has been subdivided)	Type of Ownership by Estate (Surface Estate) (Subsurface Estate)	Presently Proposed for Acquisition (Yes, No)	Preferred Method of Acquisition (Purchase, Exchange, Other)	Estimated Cost of Acquisition (Land Costs)	Estimated Cost of Acquisition (Processing Costs)
T. 38 S., R. 5 E., Sec. 32	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 39 S., R. 5 E., Sec. 2	640.44		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 39 S., R. 5 E., Sec. 36	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 39 S., R. 6 E., Sec. 32	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 40 S., R. 6 E., Sec. 2	641.00		Federal	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 40 S., R. 6 E., Sec. 16	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 40 S., R. 6 E., Sec. 36	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 40 S., R. 7 E., Sec. 16	640.00		Federal	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 40 S., R. 7 E., Sec. 32	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 40 S., R. 7 E., Sec. 36	640.00		Federal	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 41 S., R. 5 E., Sec. 2	729.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 41 S., R. 7 E., Sec. 2	737.76		Federal	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 41 S., R. 7 E., Sec. 16	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000

^a The estimated costs listed in this appendix in no way represent a Federal appraised value of the land or mineral estate, but are rough estimates based on sales or exchanges of lands or mineral estates with similar characteristics to those included in the WSA. The estimates are for purposes of establishing a range of potential costs to the government of acquiring non-Federal holdings and in no way represent an offer to purchase or exchange at the cost estimate included in this appendix.